

The Joy of Mondays

It's Monday morning, the day after the Big Game ... that is, your church's weekly worship service. As you adjust your desk chair, as you open up your tool chest, or as you scan your agenda before making that first sales call, someone walking by will invariably ask, "What did you do this weekend?"

And *that's* a loaded question ... that is, it's loaded with opportunity to help grow your church.

Instead of telling them about the trip to the waterpark, the great deal you got at the mattress store, or your fourteen-hour *Planet of the Apes* binge, this is your Golden Ticket to give your church some really good press.

But whatever you do, don't just say, "*I went to church.*" If you do, you've probably fumbled the ball and won't be able to recover. Instead of interest in your experience, those four little words are likely to draw one of the most common responses heard in the Americas today, "Huh? Church? Why?!?"

On the other hand, you may honestly not remember many of the highlights from worship yesterday. Statistics show that most church members can't remember the gist of the sermon by Monday morning, so don't feel bad – you're in good company. To alleviate that issue, you can be an all-star Monday Morning Quarterback by taking just five minutes or less to prepare on Sunday.

- **Use Your Bulletin.** If your church uses a bulletin or worship program, use it to jot down a couple notes. This'll be easy if you're a natural note-taker, but even if you've never taken a sermon note in your life, it's super easy to prepare for Monday morning. During worship, listen for two things. (1) Some word of testimony or a story that's inspiring; and (2) Something from the sermon that caught your attention or was helpful. When you hear either of these, write down the words, phrases, or thoughts on the bulletin.
- **Hang Onto Your Bulletin Digitally.** I know from experience that most church members either leave their worship bulletin sitting in the pew at the end of worship, or else they recycle it on their way out. However, before you walk away, use your smartphone to snap a picture of that meaningful thought you jotted down.
- **Review Your Note.** Finally, either last thing at night or first thing Monday morning, take a peek at the photo. This will help lock the key thought in your mind so that when the time comes, you can deftly complete the hand-off.

Okay, the moment's come. Your coworker, your boss, or the concierge has asked that fateful question ...

"So, what did you do this weekend? Anything fun?"

And because you've reviewed the play, you're ready to jump in the game. I'll wrap this up with some ideas for how to share what inspired you at this weekend's worship.

“I learned how to deal with my meddling mother. My pastor walked us through Moses’ three steps for getting free from manipulation.”

“We had coffee and donuts with some of our friends and talked about how hard it is to forgive someone when they slam you on social media. It’s a conversation that was sparked by something I heard in one of the Sunday worship songs.”

“I got to hear about a friend’s trip to Ethiopia. She went with a group from our church and built a well in a village that didn’t have fresh water. I’m thinking about going sometime.”

“I learned about a city-wide initiative to curb violence and how our church is taking an active part in it. In fact, I signed up for one of the forums the city council is having.”

Remember, the goal of your words is to elicit questions, to spark an extended conversation, and most importantly, to build interest in learning more about your church.